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jury to the country, by inducing the landlords to demand, and the tenants to promise a rent much above the real value, and both landlord and tenant are now likely to come in for their share of the disappointment and loss which have fallen so heavily on the mercantile classes, who speculated too much on the continuance of the extremes produced by the war.

The complaints made at the beginning of the season of blast or smut in the wheat crops, appear now to be too well founded, and if the farmers are not careful to procure seed, quite free from that disease, they will probably have reason to make the same complaint next year.

The potato crops do not in a general way turn out as well as was expected; they are small, and in many parts of the country have suffered by the continuance of the wet weather. Such as are yet in the ground may be expected to receive a material injury, and even those taken up since the commencement of the heavy rains, will be hurt by being put together either in houses or bins in a wet state. They are, however, still selling at a low price in the markets, but this may be attributed to the great scarcity of money which obliges the farmers to dispose of their crops at whatever they will bring, rather than to the abundance of the crop.

Flax is not a productive crop this year; the coldness and frequent rains of the summer, were quite unfavourable to the production of good flax or good seed.

Large importations of foreign wheat to the amount of 50,000 quarters, imported into London within a short space, have kept down the prices of grain in that market. Owing to the expences of the war in the shape of direct and indirect taxes entailed on all articles of produce, foreign wheat with the charges of freight, commissions, &c. can be afforded on lower terms, than the grain produced in Great Britain and Ireland.

In Edward Wakefield's lecture at the Board of Agriculture in England, published in the last Magazine, objections were made to the very extensive growth of potatoes as the almost only food of the people, lest in a failure of the crop of potatoes, from having no lower substitute to which to recur, famine might ensue. This objection to the growth of this useful, prolific and wholesome vegetable, may be best answered by reference to the well ascertained fact, that in the Highlands of Scotland, prior to the introduction of potatoes as the general food of the people, famines were frequent, but they have never occurred since. In Ireland potatoes almost always secure a plentiful supply of food, and in rare cases of failure of this important crop, when other crops have been abundant, a scarcity was prevented by the more general use of oats and wheaten bread, and other modes of using these grains. Thus they assisted to make up the deficiency of the potato-crop, as potatoes have more frequently supplied the deficiencies of the grain-crops, which have much oftener failed.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

A spirit of systematic delusion prevails to keep up the spirits of the people, by high-wrought descriptions of their situation. Such deceptive representations answer the purposes of government, and its supporters: the people like to be deceived, and the press echoes these sentiments, as well to obtain the favour of men in power, as to please the inclination of the people, wishing to continue in their dreams of delusion and false security. Writers who give a different but more true description of our real situation, and represent our prosperity as consisting more in a bloated appearance, than being substantially real, are unpopular, and their warning voice is disregarded. Yet facts which will not bend to theoretic and delusive systems, support the assertion, that the high rates of taxation occasion high rates of wages, and that trade and manufactures will succeed best, where taxes and wages are low, as the former necessarily follow the latter.*

* The following extract of a letter published in an English provincial print, expresses well-grounded fears at the threatened superiority of French manufactures over those of England, and exhibits the progress of the cotton manufacture in France,

An illustration of the preceding reasoning may be seen in the state of the last fair at Leipsic. The superiority of French manufactures in many instances, and its cheapness in all, was acknowledged. The fine woollens, the calicoes and muslins of France obtained a preference. While much of the British merchandize was slighted on account of its coming on higher terms, and in many instances as being inferior in design and texture, and old-fashioned, from having lain long on hands. Sales were forced, and the British articles were sold for what they would bring.

Failures of two banking concern have just taken place in London, as well as of some other houses of less magnitude. More will probably follow, as extensive failures draw on others. The failure of one bank, is said to have arisen from the unjustifiable speculation of one of the partners in Spanish wool. Private bankers in London are prohibited from issuing notes. But the issue of the country bankers is enormous, and without any check, except the insufficient one which may arise from their not being able to procure paper of the National Banks to pay theirs. This check is by no means sufficient. The national banks are obliged to lay before parliament, an account of the notes issued by them. A similar obligation on private banks both in Great Britain and Ireland is absolutely necessary, not only that parliament might see the full amount of the circulation of paper, but also that the public might have an opportunity of comparing the quantity of paper issued by each bank, with their apparent property, and thus judging of the safety of accepting their paper in general circulation, and to what amount. A plan is said to be in agitation to enforce a salutary regulation of this kind, and also to compel private bankers to lodge a certain portion of stock in the national banks of England and Ireland, to be forthcoming to answer, if they should be deficient in their engagements; but in the mean time, the interest to be at their own disposal. The bankrupt estate of French's bank, will, it is said, pay a very small dividend.

Those concerned in the linen trade, after a time of supine neglect, appear now aroused to seek redress through a petition to the house of Commons, against the injurious consequences of the act of last session, which laid a duty on bleaching materials, and allowed a drawback on part of them. From the reasons assigned in the last commercial report, the drawback in many instances could not be recovered, and the trade will suffer under a severe burden, unless the tax be wholly repealed.

The subject of tolls engages attention in many places. Among the documents will be found an article on the tolls of the city of Dublin. The taxes of the state are sufficiently heavy. These exactions of *petty tyrants* demand vigorous measures on the part of the people to restrain them within legitimate bounds.

Exchange through this month has seldom exceeded $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR DECEMBER, 1814.

On the 5th, the Moon rises under the first of the Lion, and as she rises in the heavens, we perceive, during the morning of the 4th, under her, Jupiter, at some distance, to whom she is directing her course.

On the 7th, the Moon rises under the five stars in triangle of the Virgin and Jupiter, all at some distance from her, and is soon followed by the first of the Vir-

" Normandy is evidently making very great advances towards outvieing whatever we have in Lancashire, particularly at Rouen. Not half an hour since I have seen in a part of Mr. M's factory, as good mule yarn as can be made; they spin from Brazil cotton, and from all I can learn, sell it to the fabriqueants or manufacturers at little more than we could do. They can weave it at considerably less, on account of the wages being so much lower than with us; paying only about 10s. or 10s. 6d. a week to men that in Manchester must have 25s. or 26s. There are in Rouen, 30,000 persons employed in the cotton trade, and in Normandy, altogether 400,000."

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